



Community & Recreation Center Services Division
Sports and Fitness Section - Youth
Youth Soccer Information Summary

MECKLENBURG COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION

Mission: to enrich the lives of our citizens through the stewardship of the County's natural resources and the efficient and responsive provision of quality leisure opportunities, experiences, and partnerships.

YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The three main goals for our youth sports programs are:

1. Safety
2. Fun
3. Participant development based on:

Everyone Plays: Provide opportunities to learn skills and improve conditioning by minimizing roster sizes and ensuring players play at least half of every game. **Balanced Teams:** Build teams that are evenly balanced on age and experience. **Positive Coaching:** Train and encourage coaches to help develop a child's sense of self-worth.

Sportsmanship: Create a safe, fair, fun and positive environment based on mutual respect.

AGE DIVISIONS (Age as of September 1, 2017)

Start Smart: Ages 3-5 (Parent Participation Required)

Coed: 4-6, 7-8, 9-10 & 11-12

REGISTRATION PERIOD

Start Smart: Varies per site

Coed: July 1-31

Required at time of registration:

- Completed Registration Form/Waiver (available at any Recreation Center or at www.parkandrec.com)
- Photo of participant for Team Photo ID Sheet
- (If registering on-line, registration form and waiver must be completed and photo submitted before participation is permitted)
- Provide copy of participant Birth Certificate

Length of Season: 8 games plus a post season Countywide tournament for those that qualify (ages 9 and up only). **Mecklenburg County reserves the right to cancel make up games in an effort to expedite regular season or tournament play.**

Uniform package: 1 jersey, 1 pair of shorts, 1 pair of socks

Equipment Needed: Shin guards are required. We recommend soccer cleats since they provide better stability and traction and can minimize slips and falls when participating. No metal cleats will be allowed, only molded rubber studs. Plastic hair beads, balls, bows and/or barrettes are strictly prohibited.

Cost: Fees vary among age divisions

\$45 for Start Smart

\$55 for ages 5-6

\$60 for ages 7-8

\$65 for individual registration ages 9 and older

\$450 – Team Fee (Does not include uniform and practice space)

May pay by cash, check, Visa or Master Card

(*checks must be made payable to MCPRD)

Registration: Visit any recreation center and register on site or visit us on-line at www.parkandrec.com.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Website: www.parkandrec.com

Athletics Division: 980.314.1116

Youth Sports Inclement Weather Hotline: 704.432.3834

For more information, email:

YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

VOLUNTEER YOUTH SPORTS COACHES

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department Youth Sports Leagues rely heavily on the support of volunteer coaches. Anyone who may be interested in volunteering as a head or assistant coach should contact their preferred recreation center to begin the application process. Any parent choosing to be a volunteer head coach will receive 1 fee waiver at the time of registration (limit 1). All coaches will undergo a background screening process.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How are leagues organized? Leagues are organized based on the number of teams registered within an age division in a region (North, Central, & South). Generally, teams from each of the centers in a region will play together for the regular season. A post-season single-elimination countywide tournament for ages 9+ will be held immediately following the regular season for teams advancing from their divisions.

When and where will my child practice? The coaches will contact all parents regarding practice days and times. The time and weekday will be chosen by the volunteer coach assigned to your child's team. Due to coaches volunteering their time to help the children of our community, we like to accommodate their needs and work with their schedules and availability. Practices are typically held on weekday afternoons/evenings, typically at the site or center at which you registered to participate through.

When and where are games played? Regular Season Games are typically played on Saturdays and will consistently occur at a selected age and skill appropriate facility. In 2017, players of all ages are tentatively scheduled to play at Harrisburg Road Park and/or Berewick Park. Due to growing participation numbers, additional game days may be needed. Game schedules will be distributed once registration has completed and practices are underway. Game schedules will be balanced with regard to game times.

Can I make requests? Any and all requests should be presented directly to Recreation Center staff at time of registration so that they may try and coordinate them properly. Requests are welcome but not guaranteed.

Where can I find the nearest Recreation Center to me? Visit www.parkandrec.com and click "Rec Centers" on the side bar. You can click on a map of our centers and also click on a specific center's link to find out contact and facility information.

You can also email YouthSports@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department encourages and promotes inclusive leisure experiences in all of our programs, activities and sports. Inclusive leisure experiences encourage and enhance opportunities for people of varying abilities to participate and interact in life's activities together with dignity. It also provides an environment that promotes and fosters physical, social and psychological inclusion of people with diverse experiences and skill levels. Inclusion enhances individuals' potential for full and active participation in leisure activities and experiences.